



An E-Update

Prepared by Organizational Results
Missouri Department of Transportation

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Fuel Savings Linked with Smooth Pavements in Missouri

It's widely accepted that smooth roads provide greater driver comfort and satisfaction, decreased vehicle maintenance costs, and better fuel economy. Now thanks to a recently completed study, the affect of pavement smoothness on fuel efficiency has been confirmed for Missouri drivers on Interstate 70. Specifically, the study examined the miles per gallon in fuel savings for smooth versus rough pavement. The study found that a 53 percent improvement in road smoothness, as part of the Smooth Roads Initiative, resulted in a 2.46 percent improvement in miles per gallon for large trucks. With approximately 9,000 trucks per day on I-70, over the course of a year the annual fuel savings would be 3,120,750 gallons of diesel. At the November average price per gallon of \$2.56, the annual cost savings would be \$7,989,120. Need more details? [Fuel Efficiency Report](#)

Process for Using Plastic Pins on Slopes Documented

Slope slides are a common sight along Missouri highways. Repairing individual slides are usually a nominal cost, however repeating the process on the same slope can add up to a considerable amount of money. MoDOT began experimenting with using recycled plastic pins on nuisance slopes in 2005. Now, thanks to the third and final phase of a department research project with the Missouri Transportation Institute, department employees can access a complete technical resource guide for using recycled plastic pins. [Plastic Pins Report](#)

Customer Perceptions of Transportation Choices Evaluated

Most motorists are relieved to see the orange construction barrels disappear once a project is completed. However, how many of those motorists think the project was the right transportation solution? With the help of the Missouri Transportation Institute, MoDOT now can answer that question. Two waves of the survey were mailed with the first in November and the second in December. Almost 2,900 Missourians returned a valid survey questionnaire so the margin of error for the analysis is slightly smaller than plus or minus two percent.

The results showed most Missourians are satisfied with MoDOT projects. When asked about the specific features of local projects (such as safety, traffic flow, and ease of use), an overwhelming percent expressed attitudes in agreement with improvements in the roadway. For example, almost half "strongly agreed" and an additional 39 percent agreed that the "road is now safer" after the project. When asked about whether this project was the "right transportation solution," more than two-thirds said that it was very much worth it, about 17 percent said somewhat worth it, and about 11 percent said they were not sure. Less than five percent said "not really worth it" or "not at all."

[Transportation Choices Report](#)



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National Study to Automate Concrete Evaluations Completed

Materials staff across the country can now access a users' guide for a new automated system to evaluate hardened concrete. The guide was the final part of a multi-phase national study coordinated by MoDOT staff. The automated system replaces a manual process for determining air-void structure in hardened concrete. The new system promises to save time and reduce human errors. Take a look for yourself? [Automated Concrete Evaluation Report](#)

Partners to Work on Speeding Up Final Project Payments

The process of closing a construction project and issuing the final payment is a complex process that can last months after the ribbon cutting. This lag is costly for contractors and MoDOT. That's why a group of contractors and MoDOT experts will search for better, faster and cheaper ways to speed up final project payments at the third Partnering for Innovative Efficiencies February 1 at the Lake of the Ozarks. Breakout groups will brainstorm solutions to several identified problem areas. The day will conclude with the entire group reaching consensus on a list of actionable items. Check out MoDOT's partnering homepage. [Partnering for Innovative Efficiencies](#)

U.S. Secretary of Transportation to Speak at Conference

MoDOT has teamed with the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation to assemble an informative and balanced program to discuss the future of transportation in Missouri. The Missouri Conference on Transportation on February 15 in Jefferson City will feature U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters as its keynote speaker. Sign up now to attend. [Transportation Conference Registration](#)

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